

Application No.: 10/608,026
Amendment dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is a Continuation-In-Part of co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 08/947,000 filed Oct. 8, 1997, now US Patent No. 6,596,818 issued July 22, 2003 which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. application Ser. No. 08/727,145, filed on Oct. 8, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,900,444 issued May 4, 1999.

Please replace paragraph [0094] with the following amended paragraph:

[0094] While the PEBA^X-type polyamide/polyether polyesters are most preferred, it is also possible to use other polyamide elastomer polymers with the physical properties specified herein and obtain similar compliance characteristics as Pebax. Such other polyamide elastomer polymers generally have polyamide segments and elastomer segments. The polyamide segments can be any aromatic or aliphatic polyamide and the elastomer segment can be any polyether, polyester or combination thereof. For example, Vestamid E, (Degussa Corporation) is a PA 12 elastomer, PEBA type polymer which comprises polylaurinlactam (also known as PA12, nylon 12 or polyamide 12) hard segments and polytetrahydrofuran soft segments. The repeating unit of polytetrahydrofuran is (CH₂)₄-O_n which is the same repeat segment as polytetramethylene ether. Polytetrahydrofuran is therefore another name for polytetramethylene ether. Therefore, Vestamide E PEBA polymer series is similar to the Pebax ~~55~~ 33 series of PEBA polymers commercially marketed by Atochem. They may differ in the molecular weight and proportion of the hard and soft segments, and their method of manufacture may also differ in detail. However, chemically they are the same. Another PEBA polymer, Grilamid (EMS-Chemie), is less desirable than the Pebax or Vestamid E polymers because it contains amide linkages between the hard and soft segment rather than the ester linkages characteristic of Pebax and Vestamid E.